

Haiti House Project / Temporary Mission Center

Here is Ellen & Nego's new house.

If you could print this out and then carry it from room to room in your house and compare what you see in the picture with what you see in your house I think you would count your blessings as you walk.

Let's start in the kitchen. This is the room that makes a woman fall in love with a house: Ellen's kitchen is 5' wide. (This is the BEFORE picture) It has a view and lots of fresh air. Walk to the left edge of the house and turn right and this will be your view. The door at the other end is missing but the opening nicely frames the banana plants growing out of what could be a patio or back yard. It's not very appliance-friendly and the rotting 2x10 board does not make for good counter space. There is no electric, lights, or water. I guess if this room were attached to my house, after I cleaned it and pressure washed it I could park my grill out there.

Next, the bathroom, below right, is located inside the block wall at the far right back corner of the house picture. Can you imagine yourself standing about where the block is on the floor, a five gallon bucket and a tin can for a scoop, taking a COLD shower? As you can see, on the really rainy days you would not need the bucket of water. A toilet you ask? It too has no roof. If you look out the block window, it's about 10 feet beyond the house. (It's in the video.)

At least the master bedroom has walls, a floor, a roof and a window. The window looks out onto the patio where the banana plants are growing. If I turn the camera 180° I'm looking into the bathroom.



Here is a view of the front door, from the inside. I'm guessing this is the living room. The picture was taken from the hallway that leads to the master bedroom and bathroom. It also leads to the guestroom, the picture below. I'm NOT making this up, believe me. The guestroom needs a roof, and the floor needs work. Not pictured, the left and inside walls are only about 7' tall.

Now that you've had the "before" tour I hope the attached video link will make sense.

We succeeded in the following goals:

1. Roof over entire structure.
2. Lightbulb and outlet in each room.
3. Flush toilet
4. Spigot in bathroom and kitchen (no sinks yet)
5. Shower

To get the water working we installed a big tank to capture rainwater, installed a pump and another smaller tank on the roof so that all the plumbing can run by gravity-flow.

The "before" electric was two wires running from a neighbor's house. We installed a 100-amp box with 3 circuit breakers and contacted the power company in hopes of getting a meter and better wiring to the house.

At the end of the video, you will see the team who accomplished this Extreme Makeover, Haiti Edition. They are from left: me, Paul Halstead, Ken Kirk, and Robert Hayes.

There are still many needs and hopefully I will have volunteers in the near future to help them with sinks, floors, and doors. Working in Haiti is definitely a "time-travel" experience. I'm just not real sure how far back in time I'm going to that era when homes first got indoor plumbing and if that was about the same time the single bare bulb was suspended in the middle of the room for light.

Thank you everyone!! I felt the support of many prayers that kept us safe and made this last trip a success. Thank you again to all those who were able to respond with support sufficient to cover all the needed materials, and even a little bit more that is not yet spent on the project but greatly needed.

Other news. We have postponed the FCM annual meeting, usually held in February each year. February was a good month when we lived in South Florida, not so good in Tennessee. Even a light snow means everyone would have to walk 1/4 mile uphill to get to the house. In addition, some of those who planned to attend had work obligation conflicts so, we are working on another date later in the year.

